

Message Text

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ACTION SCCT-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-04 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 USSS-00

IO-10 /088 W

----- 112761

P R 211847Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6046

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 01765

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, FR

SUBJECT: TERRORIST INCIDENT AT ORLY

REF: STATE 13071 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE REPORTS TALK WITH GEN. WALTER OF SGAC IN EFFORT LEARN FURTHER DETAILS OF ORLY INCIDENT AND ALSO REPORTS VARIOUS OTHER RELATED ITEMS OF INTEREST BY WAY OF FOLLOW-UP. END SUMMARY.

2. SINCE GEN. WALTER OF SGAC WAS DEPARTING LATE AFTERNOON FOR MEETING IN MADRID OF ECAC WORKING GROUP OF SECURITY (PARIS 30047 NOTAL), WE WERE NOT ABLE SECURE APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH HIM TO OBTAIN FULLER DETAILS ON ORLY TERRORIST INCIDENT BUT HE WAS AGREE-ABLE TO DISCUSSING IT BY PHONE. UNFORTUNATELY WE FOUND HIM SINGULARLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE OR ELSE ILL-INFORMED. HE SAID THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE A FEW DAYS
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BEFORE ALL THE FACTS ARE KNOWN AND FILTER THROUGH TO

HIM FROM ELSEWHERE IN THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION.

3. REFTTEL WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE CROSSED WITH PARIS 1575 NOTAL WHICH REPORTED NATIONALITY OF HOSTAGES. WHILE NOT CLEAR FROM REFTTEL MENTION OF "IDENTITY" OF HOSTAGES WHETHER DEPT. WANTS NAMES, THEY WERE LISTED IN JANUARY 20 EDITION OF FRANCE-SOIR AND WE PRESUME LISTING WAS HANDED OUT BY FRENCH AUTHORITIES AND IS CORRECT. GEN. WALTER DID NOT DEMUR WHEN WE SO REMARKED TO HIM. NAMES ARE: MR. AND MRS. FRANCOIS POISSENOT FROM DIJON; MR. LOUIS VADES, MRS. MADELEINE GUR, MISS PATRICIA MIGNON, ALL FROM PARIS; MR. AND MRS. AUREO-CARREIRA FROM ORLY; MR. THIBAUT FROM CORBEIL. THIBAUT'S WIFE AND FOUR YEAR OLD DAUGHTER VALERIE WERE THE TWO HOSTAGES RELEASED SHORTLY BEFORE THE OTHERS.

4. WHEN WE INQUIRED WHETHER GOF HAD SUCCEEDED IN IDENTIFYING THE THREE TERRORISTS, WALTER REPLIED THAT HE COULDN'T SAY, THAT THIS WAS "DELICATE MATTER". WHEN WE ASKED WHETHER INTERIOR MINISTRY MIGHT BE ABLE TO TELL US, HE REPEATED THAT THIS WAS DELICATE MATTER AND HE DOUBTED WE WOULD GET ANY INFO FROM INTERIOR MINISTRY. (COMMENT: CLEAR IMPRESSION WALTER LEFT WITH US WAS THAT GOF HAS INFO ON IDENTITY OF TERRORISTS. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY. WHILE PRESS REPORTED TERRORISTS HAD MESH STOCKINGS OVER THEIR HEADS TO CONCEAL THEIR FEATURES BETWEEN TIME THEY LEFT ORLY TOILETS TO BOARDING OF AIR FRANCE BOEING, PRESS HAS PUBLISHED FULL-FACE PHOTO OF WHAT IS PURPORTED TO BE ONE OF TERRORISTS CLOSING CABIN DOOR OF BOEING JUST PRIOR TO TAKE-OFF. ANOTHER PHOTO SHOWS YOUNG TERRORIST ON ORLY TERRACE, THOUGH HIS FACE IS PARTLY CONCEALED BY ROCKET LAUNCHER. PHOTOS ARE BEING POUCHED DEPT.)

5. WE ASKED WALTER IF HE COULD CONFIRM ACCURACY OF WHAT HOSTAGE CARREIRA IS REPORTED AS HAVING TOLD ASSOCIATED PRESS, NAMELY, TERRORISTS QUESTIONED ALL HOSTAGES CONCERNING THEIR NATIONALITY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEMED PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHETHER THERE WERE ANY AMERICANS OR GERMANS IN THE GROUP. WALTER SAID HE HAD NO INFO ON THIS BUT AT OUR STRONG URGING AGREED TO CHECK IT OUT. (IN STATEMENT TO AFP TODAY, EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR KADRY, WHO SERVED AS MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOF AND TERRORISTS, SAID THAT ONE TERRORIST SPOKE VERY POOR FRENCH AND HAD CONSIDERABLE

DIFFICULTY UNDERSTANDING ARABIC. KADRY ADDED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHAT COUNTRY THE TERRORISTS WERE FROM, SINCE THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION, ONLY QUESTIONS FROM HIM AND TERSE ANSWERS FROM THE TERRORISTS.)

6. WE ASKED WALTER WHETHER FRENCH HAD SUCCEEDED IN IDENTIFYING WEAPON WHICH TERRORIST ON TERRACE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO USE AGAINST EL AL AIRCRAFT. WALTER

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H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 01765

SAID THAT APPARENTLY IT HAD BEEN "PANZERFAUST" GRENADE LAUNCHER OF TYPE WHICH GERMANS HAD INTRODUCED AT END OF WORLD WAR II. HOWEVER, HE SAID, POLICE HAD NOT FOUND WEAPON AT ORLY SINCE TERRORISTS HAD TAKEN ALL WEAPONS WITH THEM. WE INFORMED WALTER THAT JUDGING FROM PHOTO IN

L'AUORE PURPORTING TO BE THAT OF TERRORIST ON ORLY TERRACE (PARA 4 ABOVE), WEAPON LOOKED TO EMBASSY AS IF IT MIGHT BE SOVIET RPG-2 ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER. WALTER SAID FRENCH EXPERTS WOULD HAVE TO GIVE MATTER FURTHER STUDY. (COMMENT: FOREGOING IS DAO'S TENTATIVE ESTIMATE WHICH IS HIGHLY QUALIFIED BECAUSE OF LACK OF DETAIL IN NEWSPRINT PHOTO. WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED GLOSSY PRINT TOMORROW OF PHOTO WHICH MAY FACILITATE MORE ACCURATE IDENTIFICATION OF WEAPON. IN ANY CASE, IT APPEARS DIFFERENT FROM LAUNCHER USED IN JANUARY 13 ATTACK AT ORLY, WHICH WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBABLY RPG-7 MODEL.)

7. WE NOTED THAT ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAD USED SPECIAL, SILENT DRILL TO PLANT LISTENING DEVICE IN WALL TO LISTEN TO WHAT WAS GOING ON INSIDE AREA WHERE TERRORISTS WERE CONFINED AND HAD ALSO SUCCEEDED IN PLANTING ANOTHER DEVICE ENABLING THEM TO LOOK INTO THE AREA. WALTER NOTED DRYLY THAT HE HAD ALSO READ THIS IN THE PRESS BUT WAS NOT INFORMED.

8. LE MONDE OF THIS AFTERNOON REPORTS INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE HOSTAGES. VADES, WHO IS A PRIEST, TOLD LE MONDE THAT THE THREE TERRORISTS CONVERSED AMONG THEMSELVES IN ARABIC (COMPARE WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S REMARK PARA 5 ABOVE), AND TWO OF THEM CONVERSED WITH HOSTAGES IN "VERY CORRECT" FRENCH. VADES SAID ONE OF THE TERRORISTS, WHO WAS A LITTLE OLDER THAN THE OTHERS ("IN HIS FORTIES"), WAS CLEARLY THE LEADER AND ORGANIZED THE GUARD TURNS STOOD BY THE OTHER TWO TERRORISTS. VADES SAID THAT ON THE WHOLE THE TERRORISTS WERE "VERY CORRECT", BUT HE ADDED: "I BELIEVE THAT IF THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD FAILED THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED US, JUST AS CORRECTLY." ANOTHER HOSTAGE, MME. GUR, SAID THAT THE TERRORISTS' TRANSISTOR RADIO WAS A SOURCE OF SOME CONCERN TO THE HOSTAGES, SINCE THE NEWSCASTS SEEMED TO MAKE THE TERRORISTS "VERY NERVOUS". HOSTAGE CARREIRA ALSO AGREED THAT THE TERRORISTS HAD BEHAVED DECENTLY (DE FACON CONVENABLE). HOWEVER, HE SAID, ONE OF THEM, WHO HAD BEEN WOUNDED IN THE RIGHT ARM, WAS "AGGRESSIVE AND THREATENING", AND ALMOST NEVER PUT DOWN A GRENADE HE HELD IN HIS HAND. WHILE SOMEWHAT INCONSISTENT WITH HIS ABOVE JUDGMENT AS TO BEHAVIOUR, CARREIRA ADDED THAT UNDER THE SLIGHTEST OF PRETEXTS THE TERRORISTS WOULD THREATEN THE HOSTAGES WITH "THE MOST DIRE PUNISHMENT", AND

KEPT MOST OF THE HOSTAGES STANDING THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE ORDEAL. CARREIRA SAID THAT THE MOST PAINFUL MOMENT WAS AT THE OUTSET, WHEN IT WAS FEARED THAT THE POLICE WOULD ATTEMPT TO BREAK IN AND ROOT OUT CONFIDENTIAL

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THE TERRORISTS. IT WAS AT THAT POINT, SAID CARREIRA, THAT THE HOSTAGES HAD CRIED OUT TO SIGNAL THEIR PRESENCE TO THE POLICE.
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